



### Sheridan Region

**Regional Wildlife Supervisor:**

Craig Smith

**Regional Fisheries Supervisor:**

Paul Mavrakis

**Office Managers:**

Lori Roe

Kathy Boyles

**Clerical Specialists:**

Wendy Balkenbush

Stephanie Bomar

**Game Wardens:**

Dayton: Dustin Shorma

Sheridan: Bruce Scigliano

Buffalo: Jim Seeman

Kaycee: Cody Bish

N. Gillette: Brooke Weaver

S. Gillette: Dustin Kirsch

Moorcroft: J.D. Davis

Investigator: Daniel Beach

Damage Tech: Cody Schoonover

**Public Information Specialist:**

Bud Stewart

**Wildlife Biologists :**

Wildlife Management Coordinator:

Lynn Jahnke

Sheridan: Tim Thomas

Buffalo: Dan Thiele

Gillette: Erika Peckham

Terrestrial Habitat: Todd Caltrider

**PLPW Program Coordinator:**

Troy Tobiasson

**Fish Biologists:**

Bill Bradshaw

Andrew Nikirk

Aquatic Habitat: Travis Cundy

**Habitat and Access Coordinator:**

Seth Roseberry

**Aquatic Invasive Species:**

Mike Locatelli

**Story Fish Hatchery:**

Superintendent: Steve Diekema

Senior Fish Culturist: Brad Hughes

Culturist: Jennifer Meineke

**Sheridan Bird Farm:**

Supervisor: Darrell Meineke

Biologist: Nate Brown

Technician: Vacant

# Wyoming Game and Fish Department

## Sheridan Region

### August 2016 Newsletter

## Boating Safety Enforcement—A Summer Priority



*Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman checks boat registration and fishing licenses on Lake DeSmet.*

During the summer months boating safety enforcement is a high priority for game wardens that work Lake DeSmet and Keyhole Reservoir in the Sheridan Region. Wardens routinely check for safety equipment required in a boat, such as personal floatation devices (PFD), throwable cushions or ring buoys, fire extinguishers, navigation lights, a sound producing device, current registration and an Aquatic Invasive Species sticker.

One issue that game wardens have observed this summer is the increased use of small personal kayaks that are being purchased from home improvement or large variety stores. Many of these stores are not aware of Wyoming laws concerning boating safety equipment and registration, so many of the watercraft users do not have life jackets or the required AIS decals.



*Moorcroft Game Warden John Davis approaches some kayakers on Keyhole to determine if they have PFD's and AIS stickers.*



*A boater on Lake DeSmet shows Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman the throwable cushion they have in the boat.*





# Sheridan Region Monthly Newsletter

## August 2016

### Fish Stocking—By Ground and Air

In early July, Bull Creek, west of Burgess Junction, was stocked with 300 Snake River cutthroat (SRC) trout about six inches long. The SRC were transported from the Tillett Springs Rearing Station fish truck, to the upper end of Bull Creek, using an ATV loaded with coolers. The fish were then carried by bucket to numerous locations along Bull Creek. Volunteers from the Little Bighorn Chapter of Trout Unlimited assisted the Sheridan Region Fish Management Crew in scattering the SRC along the upper reaches of Bull Creek.



*Snake River cutthroat trout were transported to upper Bull Creek using an ATV and coolers.*



*Little Bighorn Chapter of Trout Unlimited volunteer Carol Althausen dumps a bucket of cutthroat trout into Bull Creek.*

On July 25, fish were stocked in alpine lakes and reservoirs on the east slope of the Bighorn Mountains using a helicopter. In less than seven hours, 31 waters were stocked. The total number of fish stocked was just over 47,000, which included 21,000 Yellowstone Cutthroat trout, 11,300 rainbow trout, 6,400 Tiger trout (brown trout X brook trout hybrid) and 8,500 splake (lake trout X brook trout hybrid).



*Photos above show fish being added to one of eight round tanks on the aerial fish transportation (AFT) unit (photo on left), the helicopter taking off with a load of fish in the AFT (middle photo), and fish being dropped from the AFT into an alpine lake (photo on right).*



# Sheridan Region Monthly Newsletter

## August 2016

### New Faces in the Sheridan Region



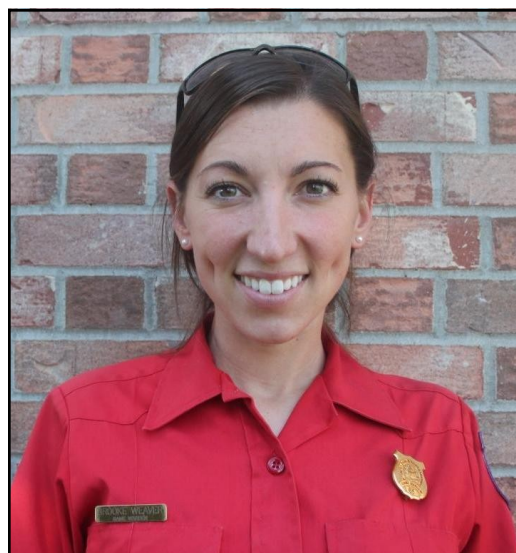
#### Cody Bish—Kaycee Game Warden

Cody Bish was born and raised in Longmont, CO. He grew up hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking and working on the farm. Bish graduated from Niwot High School in 2008 and then went to the University of Wyoming (UW) where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management in 2013. He strengthened his love of the outdoors by working in the natural resource field while attending UW. His lifelong dream of becoming a game warden was realized in 2014 when he started working for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Bish transferred to the Kaycee Game Warden position on August 1, 2016.

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#### Brooke Weaver – North Gillette Game Warden

Brooke Weaver grew up in Vale, NC. She graduated in 2010 from NC State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology. After college Weaver worked a variety of jobs, including animal trainer at the Columbus Zoo in Columbus, OH; park ranger at Huntington Beach State Park in Murrells Inlet, SC and biological science technician at Grand Teton National Park. From 2012-2014 Weaver was a wildlife enforcement officer for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. In late 2014, she became a game warden with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Cheyenne. Weaver indicates the wildlife management/biological aspects of the game warden positions in WY, as well as interacting with the public and working with private landowners, really appeals to her. She is anxious to get settled into the North Gillette Game Warden District so she can explore the area and meet the landowners while serving the people of the Gillette area.



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#### Cody Schoonover –Damage Technician

Cody Schoonover grew up in Ashland, OR. He graduated in 2013 from Eastern Washington University with a Master of Science Degree in Zoology. Schoonover has worked a variety of jobs, including a fisheries technician for Bioanalysts Inc.; field crew leader for the USGS working with endangered shore birds in North Dakota; wildlife research technician for Idaho Department of Fish and Game and a biological science technician for California Fish and Wildlife. He started working for Wyoming Game and Fish Department as the Sheridan Region damage technician on July 1.



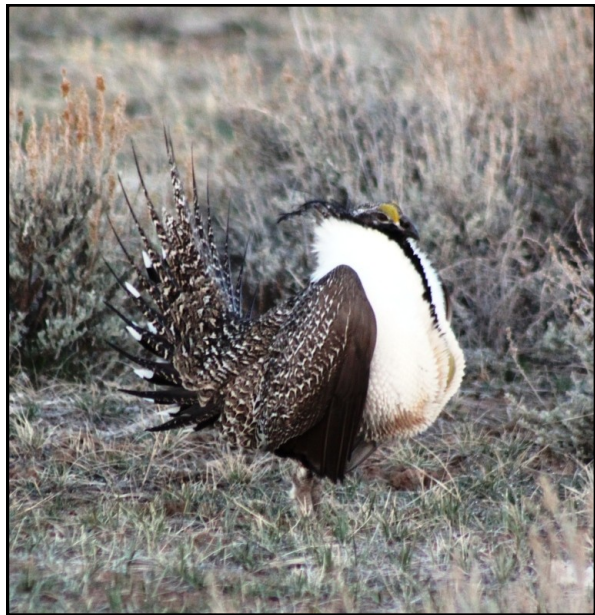




# Sheridan Region Monthly Newsletter

## August 2016

### Sage-grouse Update



*A male sage-grouse displays on a lek east of Buffalo.*

Sage-grouse lek monitoring for the Northeast Wyoming Sage-grouse Local Working Group area has been completed. The 2016 monitoring effort checked 353 of the 401 occupied leks (88%) with a resulting average male attendance of 20 males per occupied lek. This compares to 16 males per occupied lek in 2015 and was the highest since 22 males per occupied lek observed in 2007. Lek status was confirmed for 308 leks with 62% active and 38% inactive compared to 2015 when 67% were active and 33% were inactive. The combination of above normal 2015 precipitation improving habitat and an increasing cottontail rabbit population, providing an alternate prey source for predators, contributed to this increase.

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### Water Tanks Installed on Ed O. Taylor WHMA

Dependable water sources for wildlife are scarce on the Ed O. Taylor Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). Improving efficiency and distribution of existing developed water sources on the WHMA will provide critical watering sources for a variety of species including mule deer, elk, pronghorn, grouse and partridge. Funding partners for this project include: Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust Fund, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Mule Deer Foundation, Water For Wildlife and Wyoming Game and Fish Trust Fund. The first phase of this project including four new 1500 gallon watering tanks and distribution line will be completed by September 2016.



*Water distribution lines (black pipe) being installed to supply the water tanks.*



*A water tank installed on the Ed O. Taylor WHMA.*